

JACKSON COUNTY

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Council Priorities

1. To decrease the rampant use of and manufacturing of crystal methamphetamine.

To promote an increase in community awareness and involvement. To develop and implement school based prevention program targeting middle and high school grade levels. To improve the community treatment and education programs.

2. To develop services for children with MI/MR diagnosis who exhibit aggressive behaviors which exceed capacities to be managed in a less restricted setting.

Identify educational and support systems and make available to people in need of services. Develop and implement intervention and treatment programs for juveniles with MI/MR diagnosis. Obtain psychiatric hospitalization in an emergency basis for children and adolescents. State Department of mental health to secure funding for development of residential treatment programs for youth MI/MR diagnosis.

3. To provide age appropriate and behaviorally specific parenting classes.

Establish a family services center with the capacity to assess needs and access appropriate services in order to enhance parenting skills. To refer parents to the existing parenting classes, which will be provided at Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center.

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Parent education training

Action Steps

- 1) Parent Education Training.

Community pre-school

Action Steps

- 1) Secure funding
- 2) Secure buildings
- 3) Recruit and train staff

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Promote the business and workforce development programs

Action Steps

- 1) Continue to identify, prioritize, and address county wide issues that impact economic prosperity.
- 2) Implementation of our workforce development/education programs that assist citizens in acquiring skills and knowledge to participate in the world of work.
- 3) Implementation of a retail/commercial program that focuses on recruitment of new business and expansion/retraining current business in the county.

Children must have quality care while their parents work or attend education/training programs in order to provide them with a financially stable home and meet their basic needs

Action Steps

- 1) Work with local entities to maintain current data/statistics as to the need for additional child care facilities as to the need for expanding hours of service.
- 2) Educate existing county child care facilities as to need for hours of service.
- 3) Encourage development of new child care center facilities and licensed family and group homes that will accommodate the child care needs of working families in the county.

Adults need resources and locations to find current job availability

Action Steps

- 1) Work with local entities developing a network of individuals and business to partner for job resources.
- 2) Implement a program for job seekers to determine how best to use networking opportunities.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Alternative education/day treatment center

Action Steps

- 1) Secure funding
- 2) Secure building
- 3) Secure staff

Early literacy

Action Steps

- 1) Secure funds for appropriate personnel to provide additional interventions the struggling readers will need.
- 2) Provide professional development for personnel so implementation of interventions will be appropriate.
- 3) Evaluate students who received the intervention to determine if benchmarks were met.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Obesity in children

Action Steps

- 1) Promote healthily eating habits.
- 2) Promote physical activity instead of a sedentary lifestyle.
- 3) Encourage schools to provide healthy food options.
- 4) Participate in health fairs to promote healthy food and physical activity.

Lack of medical and dental services for children

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage all medical and dental offices to help by accepting Medicaid patients.
- 2) Promote enrollment of children in Medicaid and All Kids insurance programs.
- 3) Encourage medical specialists to recruit to this area.

Lack of knowledge concerning healthy active lifestyles

Action Steps

- 1) Participate with school and community groups to provide information concerning pregnancy prevention, STD's, healthy lifestyles, and other related topics for teens.
- 2) Participate with schools to provide health/hygiene education for students and parents.
- 3) Utilize news media to provide health information related to childhood issues.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

To provide age appropriate and behaviorally specific parenting classes

Action Steps

- 1) Establish a family services center with the capacity to assess needs and access appropriate services in order to enhance parenting skills.
- 2) To refer parents to the existing parenting classes, which will be provided at Mountain Lakes Behavioral Health Center.

Children must have quality care while their parents work or attend education/training programs in order to provide them with a financially stable home and meet their basic needs

Action Steps

- 1) Work with local entities to maintain current data/statistics as to the need for additional childcare facilities and/or care on weekends and 2nd and 3rd shifts.
- 2) Educate existing county child care facilities as to the need for expanding their hours of service.
- 3) Encourage development of new child care facilities and licensed family and group homes that will accommodate the child care needs of all the working families in the county.
- 4) Work with the Child Care Resource Network and the Department of Human Resources to get additional funding needed to increase the number of slots and the rate of supported child care payments for low income families.
- 5) Encourage development of day care for children with special mental and physical needs.

Provide in home skills building for parents who are deficient in basic homemaking and child rearing, to include children who are referred to juvenile court for ungovernable behavior

Action Steps

- 1) Provide funding for a qualified in home family care specialist to provide appropriate services.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

To decrease the rampant use and manufacturing of crystal methamphetamine

Action Steps

- 1) To promote an increase in community awareness and involvement.
- 2) To develop and implement school based prevention program targeting middle and high school grade levels.
- 3) To improve the community treatment and education programs.

To develop services for children with MI /MR diagnosis who exhibit aggressive behaviors which exceed capacities to be managed in a less restricted setting

Action Steps

- 1) Identify educational and support systems and make available to people in need of services.
- 2) Develop and implement intervention and treatment programs for juveniles with MI/MR diagnosis.
- 3) Obtain psychiatric hospitalization in an emergency basis for children and adolescents.
- 4) State Department of mental health to secure funding for development of residential.

To improve services for juvenile sexual offenders

Action Steps

- 1) To develop and implement intervention and treatment programs for juvenile sex offenders.
- 2) To encourage local mental health centers to provide services specific to sexual offender.

Policy Recommendations

- More funding provided to the Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences to aid in analyzing drugs and processing and reports for prosecutors.
- State Department of Mental Health to provide more training for therapists working with sexual offenders.
- To provide more funding for local law enforcement to increase manpower to deal with the increase of methamphetamine use and production.
- Establish a Drug Task Force through the District Attorney's Office, including both City Police Department and the County Sheriff's Department.
- Provide a regional center to serve MR/MI clients and families with specialized needs and specifically population of 0-3 years.
- Recruit pediatric speech therapist, occupational therapist, and physical therapist for the 0-3 year population.